



GREENWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY TIPS

The following Holiday Season Safety Tips are offered to contribute to the safety and security of people during the holiday season. The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other crime. Remember, you can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors. The Greenwood Police Department wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

Driving and Parking Safely

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Day or night, keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Try to avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows (where an attacker may hide).
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car, which creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching and leaving your vehicle be aware of your surroundings. Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Do not hesitate to ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.
- Do not hesitate to call 911 to report any suspicious activity (such as persons randomly trying car doors to see if one is unlocked).

Shopping Safely

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible, but if you must shop at night, try to go with a friend or family member.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, always stay alert to your surroundings.
- Dress casually and comfortably and always avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible. If you do carry one of these, be extra careful as they are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, bus stops, or on buses.
- Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with needed cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and pay for purchases with a check or credit/debit card when possible.
- If you use cash, keep this cash in your front pocket.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home and notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Shopping with Children Safely

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping and teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security. Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

Using Automated Teller Machines (ATM) Safely

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.